A LETTER

FROM HIS

EXCELLENCY

THE

Lord General Monck

And the OFFICERS under his Command,

TO THE

PARLIAMENT,

In the Name of themselves and the Souldiers under them. Dated the 11. *Feb.* 1659.

With the Parliaments Answer thereunto.

The Letter was read in the House the same day.

EDINBURGH,

Reprinted by *Christopher Higgins*, in *Hare* Close, over against the Trone Church, 1660.

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Mr. Speaker,

WE cannot but with thankfulneſſe acknowledge the wonderful goodneſſe of God to you, in your Return to the diſcharge of your remaining Truſt; and to our ſelves, and your Forces under our Commands (after ſome difficulties) in bringing of us, by a tedious march in ſuch ſafety to this place, to wait upon you in aſſerting the Freedoms of our Native Countrey: and being here, (as we have to our utmoſt hazard and power been inſtrumentall in your Return) ſo we ſhall be ſtill ready to purſue your Commands, ſo far as poſſibly we may. To evidence which, we have obſerved and executed your late Orders, in relation to the Chains, Poſts, and Gates of the City: which was ſomething grievous to us, and to the Officers and the Souldiers under our Commands; and that becauſe we do not remember any ſuch thing was acted upon this City in all theſe Wars; and we fear, that many ſober People are much grieved at it, and apprehend further Force to be offered to them, while they ſeem principally to deſire the ſpeedy Filling up of the Houſe, which you have declared for, as well as we have expreſs'd our juſt deſires of: and are apt to doubt, leſt what we have done may be ſo far from anſwering the expected end, as that it may increaſe the Diſcompoſure of mens ſpirits in the Nation. Upon this occaſion, it comes freſh into our minds, that when by the treachery of ſome Officers of the Army you were Interrupted: we declared to the World, *That the ground of our undertaking was not only your return to your Truſt, but alſo the Vindication of the Liberties of the People, and the preſervation of the Rights of our Countrey, the protection and encouragement of the Godly and Faithfull therein, as the eſtabliſhment of the Peace of theſe Nations.* Which Declarations made before the Lord, Angels and Men, in the day of our extremity, we (as we expect the bleſſing of the Lord upon our future undertakings) cannot but ſtill own and ſtand by.

We find that the aſſerting of the juſt Liberties of the People, is that which the generality of the Nation is much in expectation of; and that many ſober people (together with our ſelves) are under fears, leſt

this great price that God hath put into your and our hands, (as your Servants) ſhould not be improved, but that we ſhall run in confuſion again. Therefore we humbly crave leave to preſent before you ſome grounds of our fears: we are affraid that the late wonderfull and unparallell'd deliverance, is not ſo publickly and ſolemnly acknowledged as it might be, that the Lord (who wrought ſo ſtupendiouſly) may have the glory of all: we are troubled that ſome as yet do ſit in the Houſe, who are impeached of Treaſon: we cannot but obſerve that divers Members of your Houſe, (who contrary to their truſt, acted in that Illegal and Tirannical Committee of Safety) are not actually diſabled from ſitting there: notwithſtanding Colonel *Lambert* hath only the Vote of *Indemnity* to ſecure him from as high Crimes as have been Committed in this Nation, and is not obedient to your Orders, yet he ſeemeth to be winked at. We underſtand that Sir *Henry Vane* upon bare pretence is permitted to ſtay about the City, to the great diſſatisfaction of your beſt Friends; that there are dangerous Conſultations, and that of thoſe who had a chief hand in your late Interruption, and the hazarding of the whole Nations, contrary to our expectation. We find continued in the Army ſome perſons of dangerous Principles, and ſuch who were active enough in the late Defection. Though we are far from wiſhing the ruine of any, yet we could deſire that your ſignal Indulgence to late Notorious Offenders, did meet with that candid Reception from them, as to be ſo much the more ingenuous in their profeſſed Repentance: but we obſerve that many of them do ſeek to juſtifie themſelves, and are not without their Agents in print to palliate their foul Enormities; which maketh us yet to ſuſpect that we are in ſome danger of returning into the late diſtempers that you and the Nation are but newly delivered from.

We are not ignorant, that there are thoſe who lately ſtruck at the Root of *Engliſh Parliaments* in Practice and Deſign, thereby have inflamed the Nation and given great advantage to the Common Enemy; yet they are not without a ſtrange confidence to precipitate men into a belief, that they are not only Perſons againſt the one, and for the other. With grief of heart we do remember and would lament over the too palpable breach of Engagments in this Nation; Therefore we ſhould think it a duty rather to mourn over the ſame than to promote any new Oath to be taken at this time: Yet we perceive that there is a deſign to provoke the Parliament to enforce an Oath upon the Nation, and do take notice, that amongſt others there are ſome who are moſt forward to promote the ſaid deſign, who have made the leaſt (if

any) conſcience in keeping Engagements already taken. Here we muſt not ſilence our deep reſentment of a bold Petition, and of dangerous conſequence, which was lately preſented to you; the conſequence whereof (if you ſhould anſwer their deſires) would be to exclude many of the moſt conſcientious and ſober ſort of men from ſerving under you in Civil and Military Imployments, who have and would prove themſelves moſt Faithfull, and a door would be opened in deſign to retrive the Intereſt of thoſe who have (by the juſt hand of our gracious God) made themſelves ſo apparently obnoxious. Moreover, (which is not the leaſt part of the venome of that Petition) we clearly ſee the ſame ſpirit, which of late would have pulled away the by-you-declared juſt Maintenance from Miniſters, would now provoke you by an Oath to endanger the forcing away of many of the moſt godly from their Maintenance. In urging our fears from the premiſes that concerns ſome of different Principles from us, we would not be thought to (as we do not) deſign any thing that may incurre the cenſure of unjuſt Rigidity. We freely profeſſe our deſires, that Tenderneſſe of Conſcience may have its full juſt Liberty: But we cannot in judgement account that Tenderneſſe of Conſcience, which will not ſcruple at Treachery it ſelf, or any Unrighteouſneſſe, to carry on corrupt Deſignes.

Having preſented you with our Fears, we ſhall adde our Reſolution, That by the help of God, we ſhall ſtand by you in the purſuance of what we have declared for; And therefore do make this humble Requeſt to you: We could deſire, that whileſt you Sir, your utmoſt endeavours may be to manifeſt your affectionat deſires for the publick good of theſe Nations: Our further deſire is, That thoſe Regiments under your conſideration (whoſe Officers are not) may be ſpeedily paſſed. And in regard we find, that the grand cauſe of the preſent heats and diſſatisfactions in the Nation is, becauſe they are not fully repreſented in Parliament, and ſeing no other probable Expedient whereby to keep the Nation in Peace, then by filling up your Number; we muſt therefore make this our main deſire, upon which we cannot but inſiſt, that you would proceed to iſſue forth Writs, in order to Elections: for the better effecting whereof, we entreat, that you would conclude upon due and full Qualifications, that not only thoſe who have been actually in Arms againſt the Parliament may be excluded, but alſo ſuch who in the late Wars betwixt King and Parliament, have declared their diſſatisfaction to the Parliament: And becauſe the diſtracted condition of this Nation is at this hour ſo evident & preſſing, we are conſtrained

strained for the just maintenance of your Authority, and the satisfaction of all true *English* Men, earnestly to desire, that all the Writs may be issued forth by *Friday* next, returnable at the usuall and legall time; For we think it convenient to acquaint you, that to pacifie the minds of this great City, in the prosecution of your late Commands, the chief of us did give an assurance thereof.

And we must not forget to remember you, that the time hastens wherein you have declared your intended Dissolution; which the People and Our selves desire you would be punctuall in. Hereby the suspition of your Perpetuation will be taken away, and the People will have assurance that they shall have a Succession of Parliaments of their own Election; which is the undoubted Right of the *English* Nation. You have promised and declared no less: both the people and your Armies do live in the hope and expectation of it. That we may the better wait for your ful and free Concurrence to these just desires on the Nations behalfe: upon Mature deliberation we have thought it our duty as to continue the usuall Guards for the safety of your sitting, so for the present to draw the rest of the Forces under our Command into the City, that we may have the better opportunity to compose spirits and beget a good understanding in that great City, formerly renowned for their resolute adhering to Parliamentary Authority, and we hope that the same spirit will be found still to breath amongst the best, most considerable and interessed persons there. This Action of ours, as we hope it will receive your favourable interpretation, so we do believe it will (through the blessing of God) be of good use for the present peace, and future settlement of these Nations. These are our thoughts which we communicate to you, in the Names of our selves, and the Officers and Souldiers under our Commands, We are

Whitehall
Feb. 11. 1659.

Your Honours most humble Servants,
GEORGE MONCK,

Tho. Sanders *Tho. Read.*
Leon. Litcot *Ra. Knight.*
Jo. Clobery. *Dan. Redman.* } Colonels.
Jo. Hubblethorn.
Ethelbert Morgan, Lieut. Col.
Nathaniel Barton, Major
Tho. Johnson.
Jer. Smith.
Tho. Pryme. } Majors.
Fra. Nichols.
Pet. Banister.

Satur-

Saturday, 11. February, 1659.

UPon the reading of the Letter, the House Resolved, That the Thanks of this House be given unto General Monck, *for his Faithful Service, in Securing the City, and that as to the Filling up of the House, the Parliament were upon the Qualifications before the Receit of the said Letter; and the same will be dispatched in due time.*

FINIS.